

# Atretic parietal encephalocoele

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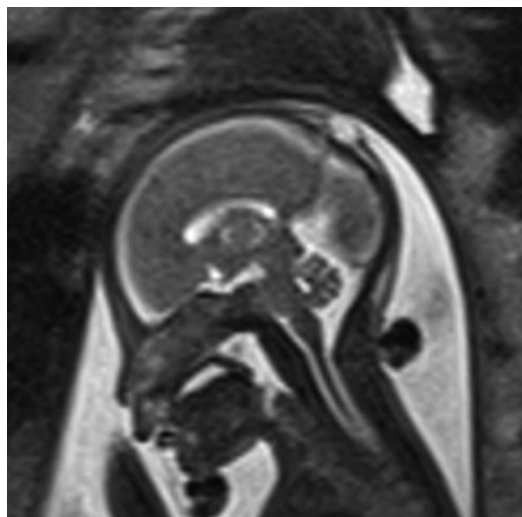
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## DESCRIPTION

A midline posterior parietal cystic structure—2×2 cm—was diagnosed in a routine 22-week ultrasonographic scan. It did not appear to have communication through parietal bone or with



**Figure 1** Subcutaneous formation in the medial line of the parieto-occipital.



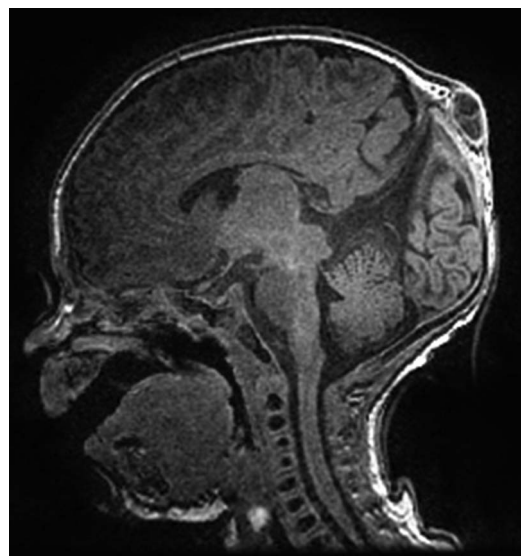
**Figure 2** Tumefaction in the median line of the parieto-occipital suture.

sutures of the brain compartment. In the 24th week, an MRI was performed, which confirmed the presence of a small subcutaneous formation in the medial line of the parieto-occipital transition, which did not seem to have macroscopic continuity with the cranial compartment. All brain structures were normal, except for vertical embryonic positioning of the straight sinus, so atretic parietal encephalocoele was suspected ([figure 1](#)).

Maternal history: the parents were non-consanguineous. The mother, aged 29 years, was healthy, with no known history of drugs or alcohol consumption. She had had a normal pregnancy, with folic acid intake in the first trimester. First trimester combined tests performed at 12 weeks of pregnancy were negative.

A full-term male neonate was delivered by caesarean section at 39 weeks. His weight was 3030 g with an Apgar index 9/10. A small tumefaction (2×2 cm) was seen in the median line of the parieto-occipital suture. It was covered by skin and hairs, and had a soft consistency ([figure 2](#)). This structure was easily depressed and became tense with valsalva manoeuvres. The rest of the physical examination was normal, including neurological examination. An after birth MRI clearly showed an underlying very small bone defect and the definitive diagnosis of posterior interparietal epicranial atretic encephalocoele was made ([figure 3](#)).

At 2 months, the infant had a surgery performed where the atretic encephalocoele was successfully



**Figure 3** Posterior interparietal epicranial atretic encephalocoele.



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## Learning points

- ▶ Atretic cephalocele is a meningeal sac with degenerated neural tissue. It represents the remnant nuchal blebs that may relate to transient overdistension of the rhombencephalic vesicle. There are small, skin covered subscalp lesions that can contain meninges, neural and glial rests. They have been termed as atypical or rudimentary meningoceles, meningeal heterotopias and meningocele manque. These generally occur within a few centimetres of the  $\lambda$  and contain meninges and neural rests, with approximately half the reported cases being parietal in location. Their recognition is important as their prognosis differs.<sup>1–4</sup>
- ▶ Prenatal ultrasonography detects the vast majority of cases (almost 80%), but neonatal MRI will sometimes establish not only the definitive diagnosis and also the prognosis, as it will clearly reveal the structures involved and the presence or absence of hydrocephalus.<sup>5</sup>
- ▶ Diagnosis of these covered lesions is between encephalocele, meningocele, atretic encephalocele, sinus pericranii, haemangioma, epidermal cyst and teratoma and cystic hygroma.<sup>2</sup>

removed without complications. The histological results confirmed the diagnosis and today the patient is a healthy 9-month old boy.

**Contributors** SFS is the guarantor and was involved in the identification of the case, idea for the article, literature research and writing of the manuscript. SFS and HR were involved in the management of the case. CC contributed the MRI reports and AI was the neurosurgeon.

**Competing interests** None declared.

**Patient consent** Obtained.

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